

I am writing to comment on Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the election.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Their blatantly politicized use of those airwaves is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. When media companies become so large that the idea of "competition" becomes meaningless, the public loses. The programming we watch is determined by what's good for the bottom lines of companies like Sinclair Broadcasting (including currying favor with a political party) and less of what we need for our democracy. It's important that the public sees real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.